

Washington, D.C. – On Saturday, May 22, Congressman Harry Teague will host a roundtable discussion on his national “Katie’s Law” bill that overwhelmingly passed the House of Representatives on Tuesday. The discussion will focus on law enforcement implementation of Katie’s Law, the community’s crime prevention and public safety concerns, and building momentum for the bill. The roundtable, to be held at New Mexico State University’s (NMSU) Criminal Justice Department on the NMSU campus, will include NMSU University Police, Las Cruces Police, Doña Ana County Sheriff, NMSU criminal justice faculty and several Las Cruces neighborhood associations.

All interested media are invited to attend.

The Katie Sepich Enhanced DNA Collection Act (H.R. 4614) is a bipartisan bill that encourages states to maximize the potential of forensic DNA to solve and prevent violent crimes by collecting a DNA sample upon arrest at the same time as fingerprints -- for certain felony crimes. Harry Teague has worked with Katie’s parents, Jayann and David Sepich of Carlsbad to develop this national law. Key law enforcement and victim’s rights groups have continued to offer their endorsements of the legislation since it was introduced in February, including the New Mexico District Attorneys’ Association, the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN), the Surviving Parents Coalition, National District Attorney’s Association, and National Sheriff’s Association.

Katie’s Law is named after Katie Sepich, from Carlsbad, New Mexico. Katie was 22 years old when she was brutally raped and murdered in Las Cruces, New Mexico. If New Mexico had at that time required a DNA sample to be taken upon arrest, Katie’s killer would have been caught three months after the murder when the murderer was arrested for another predatory crime.

Instead, the killer was released back onto the streets, it was three long years before he was finally apprehended again and linked to Katie’s murder.

**Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>:**

**WHAT:** ■ ■ Katie’s Law Briefing

**WHERE:** NMSU Criminal Justice Department, Breland Hall, Room 172A, Las Cruces

**WHEN:** ■ Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

###